



USAID
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CROATIA

ACTIVITY OVERVIEW

Assistance to NGOs (CroNGO)



Academy for Educational Development

Over 4,000 students and approximately 100 youth from Pula were involved in organizing youth city council elections in March 2004. Local citizens were very positive about this project, emphasizing that ZUM, a local youth NGO presents a new healthy voice in the city.

Implementer: Academy for Educational Development (AED)

Partners: European Center for Not-For-Profit Law (ECNL), Non-profit Enterprise and Self-Sustainability Team (NESS), Association MI (Split), OGI (Osijek), SMART (Rijeka)

U.S. Agency for International Development
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Croatian non-governmental organizations (NGOs) have played an important role in building democracy and strengthening citizen's participation. The sector is addressing citizens' needs, providing services, influencing decision-makers, and mobilizing citizens. Civil society continues to grow with more than 27,000 registered associations. NGOs working in the areas of human rights, gender issues, political process, environmental protection and social services are among the most active. However, Croatian civil society organizations continue to grapple with problems of financial and organizational sustainability. To address these issues, USAID refocused and extended its CroNGO program for additional three years to work in the following areas:

Community Partnership Program (CPP) provides small financial and technical support to local NGOs that deal with economic development, tourism promotion, and civic community spaces. This component is implemented in partnership with three regional partners: Association MI, OGI and SMART.

Sector Development Program is an integrated grant, training and technical assistance program that addresses key weakness in the sector, including advocacy, capacity building, and financial viability, and volunteerism and NGO visibility.

Institutional Support Program supports several key institutions that serve as resources and sources of support for Croatian NGOs, including the National Foundation for Civil Society Development; Government Office for Cooperation with NGOs; Trainer's Forum; and Donor's Forum.

NGO Legal Reform Program assists Croatian partners to strengthen the NGO legal and fiscal framework and capacity to implement new legislation. In coordination with the Government, CroNGO will assist with drafting and enacting the Law on Funds and Foundations; Law on Volunteerism; Code of Good Practices in Distribution of Public Funding to NGOs and other related regulations.

Results Legal framework improved by adopting the Law on Associations, the Law on the National Foundation for Development of Civil Society, Freedom of Information Act, and the tax law reforms benefiting NGOs.

Created grant-making organizations in three major regions of the country, including Association MI, SMART and OGI.

CroNGO supported NGO service and infrastructure programs in 200 communities benefiting 37,000 beneficiaries.

The program promoted corporate philanthropy and NGO/business partnership as a desirable practices for local businesses results in long-term partnerships between Zagrebacka Banka and Croatian Guide Dog and Mobility Association.